

ZOYSIAGRASS PLANT NAMED 'Z-89'

5 LATIN NAME OF GENUS AND SPECIES

The present invention relates to a new *Zoysia* sp. plant.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

10 The present invention relates to a new and distinct variety of *Zoysia* sp., which is a member of the Graminae family.

The new variety, Z-89, also referred to herein as Z99-89, is the result of five generations of crossing, beginning with a cross of *Z. japonica* x *Z. matrella*, and the reciprocal cross; *Z. tenuifolia* was introduced in the third generation of crosses. 15 The pedigree is shown in FIG. 1. The first cross was field-pollinated. All succeeding generations of crosses were hand-pollinated under greenhouse conditions, and seed was germinated under greenhouse conditions. Seedlings were individually cultured in a greenhouse before being transplanted 20 to the field for evaluation and selection.

Periodic drought conditions in Hawaii have increased the need for improved warm season turfgrass varieties. Zoysiagrasses are well adapted for use under such conditions because of their low water use rates and high heat tolerance.

25 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The new variety of zoysiagrass, Z-89, exhibits a finer leaf texture, an improved color and an improved growth habit compared to other currently available commercial zoysiagrass varieties. 30 The new variety is vegetatively propagated from sod, plugs, tillers or stolon and rhizome pieces. Asexual propagation in Oahu, Hawaii has established that the combination of characteristics of the new variety are transmitted through succeeding generations. However, seed is genetically unstable.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ILLUSTRATION(S)

FIG. 1 is a diagram showing the pedigree of Z-89.

5 FIG. 2 shows the turf appearance of the new variety.

FIG. 3 shows the appearance of a single leaf of the new variety as compared to that of 'El Toro.'

FIG. 4 depicts the leaf orientation of the new variety and of the 'El Toro' variety.

10 FIG. 5 shows stolons of the new variety compared with 'El Toro.'

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DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW VARIETY

5 The new variety 'Z-89' is characterized by a finer leaf texture, an improved color and an improved growth habit compared to other currently available commercial Zoysiagrass varieties. The following description is of 8 months-old plants grown in Oahu, Hawaii with color descriptions in accordance with the Color Chart of the Royal Horticultural Society, London (4th ed. 1995).

10 All dimensions are in millimeters, weights in grams (unless otherwise stated).

15	Leaf color:	Near 137A (upper surface); near 139A (underside)
	Stolon color:	Near N79B
	Leaf length:	From 3.2 cm to 9.9 cm; average length 5.7 cm
20	Leaf width:	From 1.5 mm to 3.0 mm; average width 2.2 mm
	Internode length:	From 0.4 cm to 2.9 cm; average length 1.7 cm
25	Internode thickness:	From 1.2 mm to 2.1 mm; average 1.6 mm
	Raceme length:	From 2.7 cm to 9.9 cm; average length 5.0 cm
30	Culm height	From 7.5 cm to 13.1 cm; average 9.0 cm
	Pedicel:	From 1.0 mm to 2.1 mm; average 1.5 mm

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Ligule

Hairs at ligule area from 2.5
mm to 3.0 mm; hairs on side
of ligule 0.5 mm to 4.0 mm

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Spikelet with anthers and
stigma exerted

Color from near N77C to near
N186C

Mature spikelets

Color from near N79A to near
158A

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Winter color retention and spring green-up are impossible to
evaluate in Hawaii's climate.

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